

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 14740

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TAGS: TECH EIND UR

SUBJ: STANFORD RESEARCH INSTITUTE GROUP MEETING WITH
SCST DEPUTY CHAIRMAN GVISHIANI

1. SUMMARY STANFORD RESEARCH INSTITUTE SCHOLARS, IN MOSCOW FOR JOINT SYMPOSIUM WITH USA INSTITUTE AND IMEMO ACADEMICS, ACCOMPANIED BY EMBOFF WERE RECEIVED SEPT 26 BY STATE COMMITTEE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SCST) DEPUTY CHAIMAN DZHERMAN GVISHIANI. GVISHIANI GAVE STANDARD BUT DETAILED RUNDOWN OF SCST ACTIVITIES AND COMMITTEE'S RELATIVE POSITION VIS-A-VIS INDUSTRIAL MINISTRIES AND FOREIGN TRADE MINISTRY. OF PARTICULAR INTEREST WERE GVISHIANI'S REMARKS ON POLICY ROLE PLAYED BY SCST AND ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE SCIENCE AND EDUCATIONAL INSITTUTIONS DEPARTMENT HEADED BY S.P. TRAPEZNIKOV. END SUMMARY

2. RECEIVING GROUP IN HIS LARGE FOURTH FLOOR OFFICE LINED WITH SONY AUDIO-VISUAL EQUIPMENT, GVISHIANI PRESENTED HIS USUAL IMAGE OF DAPPER, WELL-SPOOKEN BUSINESS EXECUTIVE. SPEAKING IN NEAR-FLAWLESS ENGLISH, GVISHIANI DESCRIBED ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF SCST IN UPGRADING AND EXPANDING SOVIET TECHNOLOGICAL BASE. WHILE PRESENTATION WAS LARGELY STANDARD RECAPITULATION OF WELL-KNOWN SCST FUNCTIONS, FQOLLOWING WAS OF INTEREST.

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3. RELATIONS WITH INDUSTRIAL MINISTIRES AND MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE. HERE GVISHIANI GAVE MORE PRECISE EXPOSITION OF SITUATION

THAN IS USUALLY HEARD. CONCERNING INDUSTRIAL MINISTRIES, GVISHIANI STATED THAT COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HAS GIVEN SCST AUTHORITY TO DICTATE TO MINISTRIES--IF CONSENSUS CANNOT BE REACHED--DIRECTION THEIR R&D AND TECHNOLOGICAL MODERNIZATION ACTIVITIES SHOULD TAKE. REGARDING MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (MFT), GVISHIANI REFERRED TO THAT ORGANIZATION SOMEWHAT SCORNFULLY AS MERELY THE "MARKETING ARM" OF LARGE CORPORATION (I.E. SOVIET INDUSTRY) WHICH DOES WHAT IT IS TOLD. ACKNOWLEDGING THAT FUNCTIONS OF SCST AND MFT EVER-INCREASINGLY OVERLAP AS USSR MOVES TO ACQUIRE MORE SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY FROM ABROAD, GVISHIANI ASSERTED POSITIVELY THAT VIS-A-VIS MFT, STATE COMMITTEE HAS FINAL, DECISIVE SAY BOTH ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS (REGARDING SPECIFIC PIECES OF EQUIPMENT TO PURCHASE) AND IN POLICY (REGARDING FOREIGN TRADE IN HIGH TECHNOLOGY ITEMS).

4. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, GVISHIANI DESCRIBED RELATIONS BETWEEN SCST AND CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, HEADED BY S.P. TRAPEZNIKOV. STATING THAT SCST MUST OF COURSE BE RESPONSIVE TO PARTY DIRECTIVES, GVISHIANI CLAIMED THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION (SCST) AND ITS PARTY INTERFACE ((TRAPEZNIKOV DEPARTMENT) ARE BOTH CORDIAL AND INFORMAL. FORMAL DIRECTIVES OR SUGGESTIONS FROM TRAPEZNIKOV MOVE UPWARD THROUGH PARTY APPARATUS TO CC SECRETARIAT, THENCE ACROSS TO COUNCIL OF MINISTERS SECRETARIAT AND DOWN TO SCST. AS EVIDENCE OF CLOSE LINKS BETWEEN SCST AND PARTY SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY WATCHDOG, GVISHIANI NOTED THAT NEW INTER-AGENCY "COMMITTEE ON SYSTEMS ANALYSIS" HAS RECENTLY BEEN CREATED OF WHICH HE IS CHAIRMAN AND TRAPEZNIKOV'S DEPUTY, I.M. MAKAROV, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN.

5. CONCERNING INTRA-SCST ACTIVITIES, GVISHIANI DWELT AT LENGTH ON ROLE OF ADMINISTRATION FOR SCIENTIFIC-TECHNOLOGICAL INFORMATION, HEADED BY N.B. ARUTYUNOV. THIS ADMINISTRATION IS ONE OF THOSE FOR WHICH GVISHIANI RESPONSIBLE AS SCST DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, AND HE CLAIMED THAT ADMINISTRATION HAS BROAD POLICY MANDATE TO DISSEMINATE AND COORDINATE GOALS FOR ALL SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH INSTITUTES OPERATING UNDER AEGIS OF INDUSTRIAL MINISTRIES. ADMINISTRATION APPARENTLY ALSO REVIEWS
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CURRICULA USED IN SECTORAL TRAINING INSTITUTIONS.

6. COMMENT: WHEN MEETING WITH GVISHIANI, ONE HAS STRONG IMPRESSION THAT HERE IS ESSENTIALLY POLITICAL ANIMAL (HE IS KOSYGIN'S SON-IN-LAW AFTER ALL), PLACED WHERE HE WAS BECAUSE LEADERSHIP PERCEIVED NECESSITY OF MAKING SCST INTO UNIQUELY POWERFUL ORGANIZATION (FOR SAKE OF ECONOMIC MODERNIZATION), MORE SO THAN COULD HAVE ACHIEVED VIA ITS INSTITUTIONALIZED LINES OF AUTHORITY. AS IT IS, DUE IN NO SMALL MEASURE TO GVISHIANI'S PRESENCE, SCST IS UNDOUBTEDLY SECOND-RANKING STATE COMMITTEE IN IMPORTANCE

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